

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 SES-02
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /091 W
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O R 281507Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9854
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5670

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MILI LE SY
SUBJ: REMARKS OF NAOUM FARAH AND KARIM PAKRADOUNI

REF: BEIRUT 5662

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AT 1630 HOURS SEPTEMBER 28, NAOUM FARAH, AN AIDE TO BACHIR GEMAYEL, SAID THAT PIERRE GEMAYEL AFTER TALKING WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD ORDERED PHALANGE TO CEASE FIRE, AND THAT PHALANGE WAS OBEYING. PHALANGE WOULD NOT SEEK TO PROVOKE AND ESCALATE THE FIGHTING. AS OF 1630 HOURS, FARAH SAID, SITUATION WAS RELATIVELY CALM. MOST SHELLING HAD STOPPED, ALTHOUGH SMALL-ARMS FIRE WAS CONTINUING.

2. FARAH "FORMALLY AND CATEGORICALLY" DEINED THAT PHALANGE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SHELLING OFFSHORE FROM PORT AND AYN MREISSE AT
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1230 TO 1300 HOURS TODAY, SEPTEMBER 28. FARAH MAINTAINED THAT SHELLS WERE OVER-SHOTS FROM SYRIAN ARTILLERY FIRING AT PHALANGE PARTY AND MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. FARAH SAID THAT SYRIANS HAD HIT THE PHALANGE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

3. FARAH SAID THAT PHALANGE FOR FIRST TIME TODAY USED ITS ARTILLERY TO FIRE BACK AT SYRIAN ARTILLERY. MOREOVER, PHALANGE

HAD CHANGED STANDING ORDERS WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED BEGINNING OF JULY TO ITS MILITIAMEN TO RESPOND ONLY WITH SMALL ARMS OR LIGHT MORTARS TO SYRIAN FIRE. IN FUTURE, PHALANGE ARTILLERY WOULD FIRE BACK AT SYRIAN ARTILLERY.

4. EMBOFF NOTED THAT FARAH THAT AT ABOUT 1300 HOURS SEVEN MORTAR ROUNDS HAD HIT IN FAKHANI AREA OF WEST BEIRUT. FARAH STRESSED IN REPLY THAT PHALANGE HAD ISSUED NO ORDERS TO ITS FIGHTERS TO SHELL ANY PARTS OF WEST BEIRUT. HE DID NOT DENY, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PHALANGE FIGHTERS MAY HAVE DONE SO WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT SYRIANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR OFF-SHORE SHELLING, BUT STILL BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY THAT CHRISTIANS WERE RESPONSIBLE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NLP RATHER THAN PHALANGE DID THE SHELLING, SINCE THERE ARE NLP 130MM GUNS IN AD DUBBAYAH WHICH ARE IN POSITION TO HAVE DONE SO. END COMMENT.

6. LATE ITEM: PHALANGE POLITBURO MEMBER KARIM PAKRADOUNI TELEPHONED EMBOFF FROM BAABDA PALACE AT 1700 HOURS AND SAID THAT NOBODY YET KNEW WHAT HAD STARTED THE FIGHTING ON SEPTEMBER 27. PAKRADOUNI SPECULATED, HOWEVER, THAT CHRISTIANS HAD DONE SO. PAKRADOUNI ALSO SAID NOBODY KNEW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFSHORE SHELLING, BUT SPECULATED THAT IT WAS CHRISTIANS WHO WANTED TO: (A) CHASE THE SHIPS AND, (B) INVOLVE WEST BEIRUT IN
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THE FIGHTING. PAKRADOUNI SAID THAT A CEASE-FIRE HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AT 1230 HOURS AND THAT AS OF 1400 HOURS IT WAS BEING GENERALLY OBEYED. PAKRADOUNI CONFIRMED THAT MOST SHELLING HAD STOPPED ALTHOUGH SOME SMALL ARMS FIRE IS CONTINUING.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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